



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY HOMELESS COURT HIGHLIGHTED ON CTN *County Television Network Launches Feature on Unique Program*

County Television Network (CTN) today announced the launch of a 30-minute program on the award-winning Homeless Court, which provides court access for local homeless people and is sponsored by the County Office of the Public Defender, San Diego Superior Court, San Diego City Attorney's office and numerous homeless outreach shelters.

The compelling television program highlights the stories of a number of men and women who have been homeless and are now in recovery from alcoholism and drug abuse. One of the men takes the viewer through a portion of his life by showing the alley corner where he used to sleep and live. He later brings the viewer to his nicely furnished apartment.

"The Homeless Court offers alternative sentencing as opposed to traditional fines for misdemeanor offenses and infractions", said County Public Defender Steve Carroll. "The people sentenced there usually take classes or participate in programs designed to help move them from the streets to self-sufficiency."

Homeless Court meets monthly and improves access to court for the homeless, and helps erase their fears of the legal system. The program also reduces court, jail, and administrative costs, as a large number of cases are closed after each session.

CTN will air "Homeless Court" at 11 p.m. Monday, October 6; 6:30 p.m. on Sunday October 12; 10 p.m. Monday, October 13; and 10:30 p.m. Thursday October 16. Please check the CTN Web site at www.ctn.org for additional showings in the following months.

CTN is available on Time Warner 22, Cox 19 (North) & 24 (South), and Adelphia 66.

The County has three strategic initiatives; kids, environment and safe and livable communities. The "Homeless Court" program helps CTN meet the goals of the County's Strategic Initiatives in the area of safe and livable communities.

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